

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/647,378

Examiner

Paul Callahan

Applicant(s)

KAWAKAMI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 2-21-07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 20, 22-24, 26 and 27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 14, 20, 22-24, 26, and 27 were pending in the instant application at the time of the previous Office Action, mailed November 21, 2006. By the latest amendment, filed February 21, 2007, claims 9, 10, and 14 are cancelled. Therefore claims 1-4, 20, 22-24, 26, and 27 remain pending and have been examined.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 20, 22-24, 26, and 27 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art does not teach the combination of features found in the independent claims, particularly including:

As for claim 1, the use of first control means to control reading and writing of content data from a storage medium, and a second control means to decrypt and execute encrypted program code supplied from first control means, and where the second control means computes a hash value of management information read from the storage medium and compares it with a past hash value computed for the management information, and where the first control means controls reading and writing of content from the medium based on the result of the execution of the decrypted program code by the second control means. Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and are thereby allowable on that basis.

As for claim 4, the implementation of the program execution controller in a semiconductor chip designed so that its internal operations cannot be confirmed from outside of the semiconductor chip.

As for claim 20, the utilization of content data identification information as a usage-rule file and the use of hashing of the identification information and comparison with a previously computed hash of that information to control copy or move of the content data.

As for claim 22, the use of a first memory area to store a predetermined lock key and a save key, an authentication means that utilizes the lock key in an authentication routine with another apparatus and thereby generate a communication key, a second memory area that is used to store an encrypted version of the communication key that has been encrypted with the save key, where the encrypted communication key is stored in the second memory area in association with data received at an interface that has been encrypted by the communication key. Claim 23 is dependent on claim 22 and is thereby allowable on that basis.

As for claim 24, the use of a memory to store a predetermined master key and a save key, the use of an authentication program that uses the master key to make mutual authentication with another apparatus and thereby generate a communication

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key, use of the communication key to decrypt an encryption key and use the decrypted encryption key to decrypt content data, and subsequently encrypting the encryption key again with the save key, and a storage medium configured to store content data encrypted with the communication key in association with the encryption key that has been encrypted with the save key.

As for claims 26 and 27, the storage of a master key and a save key, using the master key to mutually authenticate with another apparatus and generate a communication key, using the master key to decrypt an encryption key that has been used to encrypt content data, encrypting the content data with the communication key and storing it in association with the encryption key encrypted with the save key.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul E. Callahan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3869. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise, can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Paul Callahan

PEC
4-25-07

Emmanuel L. Moise
EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER